IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A sprocket support member for a bicycle sprocket assembly comprising at least one freewheel hub engagement portion having at least one tooth engagable with a splined surface of a bicycle freewheel hub and at least one fastening portion arranged in a radially external position with respect to the engagement portion, the fastening portion presenting at least one hole for the mounting of at least one sprocket to the sprocket support member wherein the fastening portion is axially displaced with respect to the engagement portion.

2. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 1, wherein the fastening portion and the engagement portion are arranged in separate axially-spaced planes.

3. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 1, wherein the fastening portion has an axial thickness substantially equal to a desired axial distance between multiple sprockets of the sprocket assembly.

4. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 1, including an axial projection located between the engagement portion and the fastening portion.

5. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 4, wherein the axial projection forms a support against which a radially projecting portion of a fastening element can rest.

6. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 5,

wherein the axial projection has a centering and support seat having the shape of a cylindrical sector coaxial with a fastening hole of the fastening portion.

7. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 5, wherein the axial projection is located at the base of a radial contact surface of the fastening portion.

8. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 1, wherein one of the at least one fastening portion and one of the at least one engagement portion form at least one single structural unit, the one of the at least one engagement portion being aligned with the one of the at least one fastening portion in a radial direction.

9. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 8, wherein the structural unit includes at least one weight-saving cavity located between the engagement portion and the fastening portion.

10. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 8, including a plurality of single structural units angularly equidistant from each other and connected together by zones having reduced dimensions in the radial direction.

11. (Previously presented) The sprocket support member of claim 1, wherein the support member is made of a material chosen among the group consisting of: steel, aluminum and its alloys, titanium, and fabric made of structural fibers incorporated in a matrix of plastic material, in which the fibers are chosen among carbon fibers, glass fibers, aramid fibers, boron fibers, ceramic fibers or any combination thereof.

12. - 32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A sprocket support member for a bicycle sprocket assembly comprising:

an inner engagement portion having at least one tooth adapted for engagement with a spline of a bicycle freewheel hub, the inner engagement portion defining a first plane; and,

an outer fastening portion having at least one position defined for the mounting the sprocket support member to a sprocket, the outer fastening portion defines a second plane that is immediately adjacent to and parallel with the first plane.

34. (New) The sprocket support member of claim 33 wherein the inner engagement portion and the outer fastening portion have adjacent faces and free faces and wherein the free face of the inner engagement portion is spaced from the free face of the outer fastening portion by a predetermined distance adapted for a defined sprocket assembly.

35. (New) A sprocket support member for a bicycle sprocket assembly comprising:

an inner engagement portion having at least one tooth adapted for engagement with a spline of a bicycle freewheel hub, the inner engagement portion defining a first plane; and,

an outer fastening portion having at least one position defined for the mounting the sprocket support member to a sprocket, the outer fastening portion defines a second plane that is immediately tangent to and parallel with the first plane.